

Claims:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (currently amended) In combination with a mowing implement equipped with a rotary disc cutter bar having a gear housing extending transversely, relative to a forward direction of travel during mowing operation, and including a plurality of transversely spaced, knife-carrying rotary discs mounted, and being respectively driven, for rotating in desired directions above an upper surface of said gear housing for cutting and delivering crop into a discharge zone at the rear of the cutter bar, a crop processing device located in said discharge zone just downstream from said cutter bar, and a crop-lifting arrangement for directing cut crop delivered by said rotary discs upwardly and rearwardly from said cutter bar so as to be in a favorable location for engagement by said crop processing device, the improvement comprising: said crop-lifting arrangement including a lip extending transversely across, and projecting substantially upright upward from, at least a rear region of said cutter bar located just forward of said crop processing device; and said lip extending closely adjacent to, and to a height above, a path traced by knives of said knife-carrying rotary discs.

2. (original) The combination, as defined in claim 1, wherein said crop-lifting arrangement further includes a plurality of ramps, respectively positioned at locations between adjacent rotary discs and inclined downwardly and forwardly from a top of said lip to said upper surface of said housing.

3. (original) The combination, as defined in claim 2, wherein said crop-lifting arrangement comprises a plurality of individual lifter units; each lifter unit including a lip section joined to a respective one of said plurality of ramps; and said lip sections cooperating to define said lip.

4. (original) The combination, as defined in claim 3, wherein said gear housing includes an upright rear surface; an elongate mounting member extending lengthwise of said cutter bar and being fixed to said rear surface of said gear housing; and said individual lifter units being secured to said mounting member.

5. (original) The combination, as defined in claim 4, wherein each ramp of each individual lifter unit has a vertical, transverse mounting plate fixed to an underside thereof; and each mounting plate being fastened to said mounting member.

6. (original) The combination, as defined in claim 3, wherein said ramp and lip section of each individual lifter unit make an angle of approximately 90° with each other.

7. (original) The combination, as defined in claim 1, wherein said lip is inclined upwardly and forwardly at an angle of approximately 60° to the horizontal.

8. (original) The combination, as defined in claim 1 wherein said lip is formed integrally with said gear housing.

9. (original) The combination, as defined in claim 8, wherein said crop-lifting arrangement further includes a plurality of ramps formed integrally with said gear housing and inclined downwardly and forwardly to said upper surface of said gear housing from respective locations between adjacent gears.

10. (original) The combination, as defined in claim 9, wherein said gear housing is constructed of a plurality of individual modules having opposite sides, with one side of one module being joined to one side of an adjacent module; and said crop-lifting arrangement being defined by individual lifting units respectively joined to upper rear regions of each of said individual modules; and each of said individual lifting units being defined by a lip section extending between a pair of ramp half sections, whereby ramp half sections of adjacent modules cooperate to define a whole ramp.